

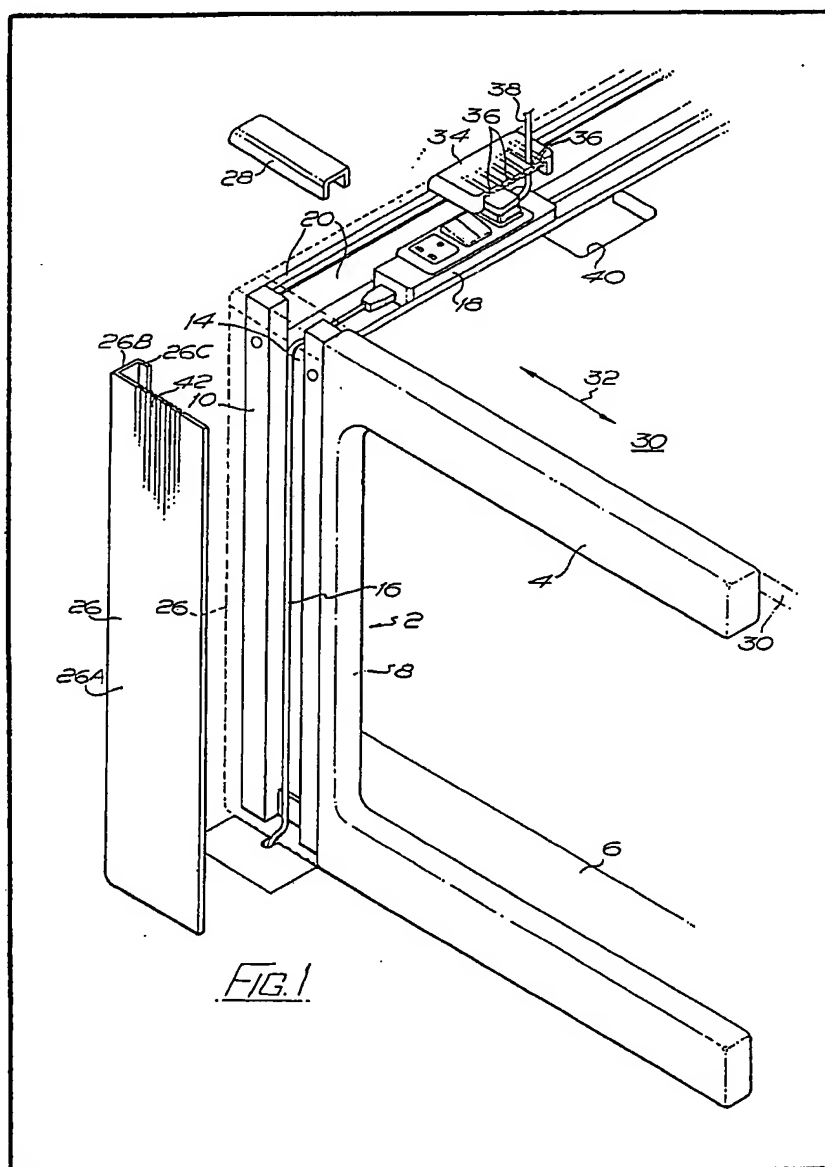
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(54) Desks or tables

(57) A desk or table including a top or working surface 30 and means 2 supporting said top or working surface, said desk or table including a housing 20 for receiving electric cables, e.g. for telephones, machines, appliances, said top or working surface being movable in its plane

(arrow 32) relative to said means to provide access to said housing. The top or working surface is slidable in guides in the support means between a first position in which the top or working surface overlies said housing and a second position in which access can be gained to said housing. The support means may be formed of a self-skinning polyurethane foam around a metal or other core.



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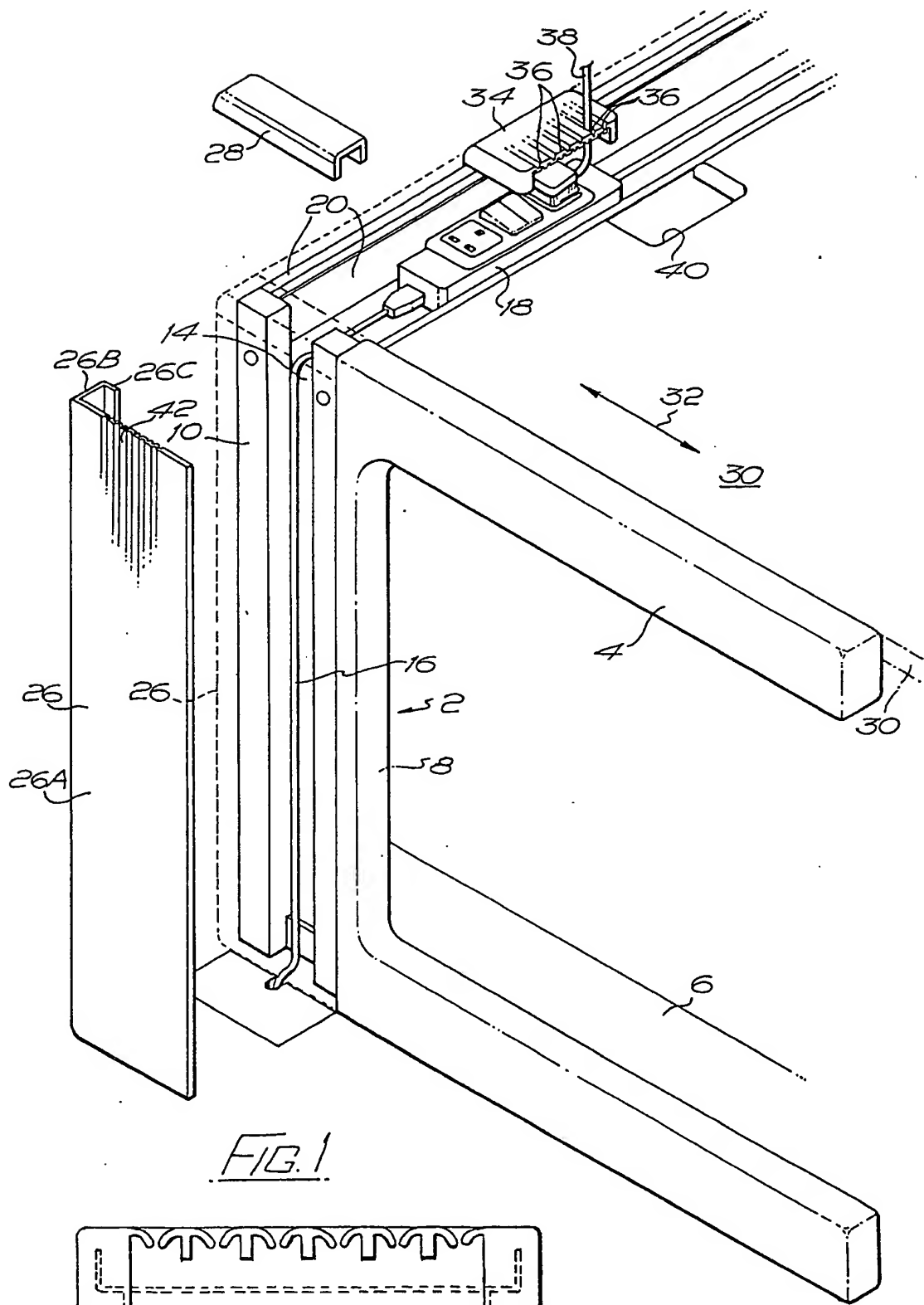


FIG. 1

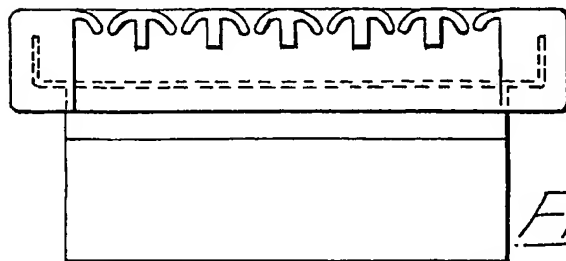
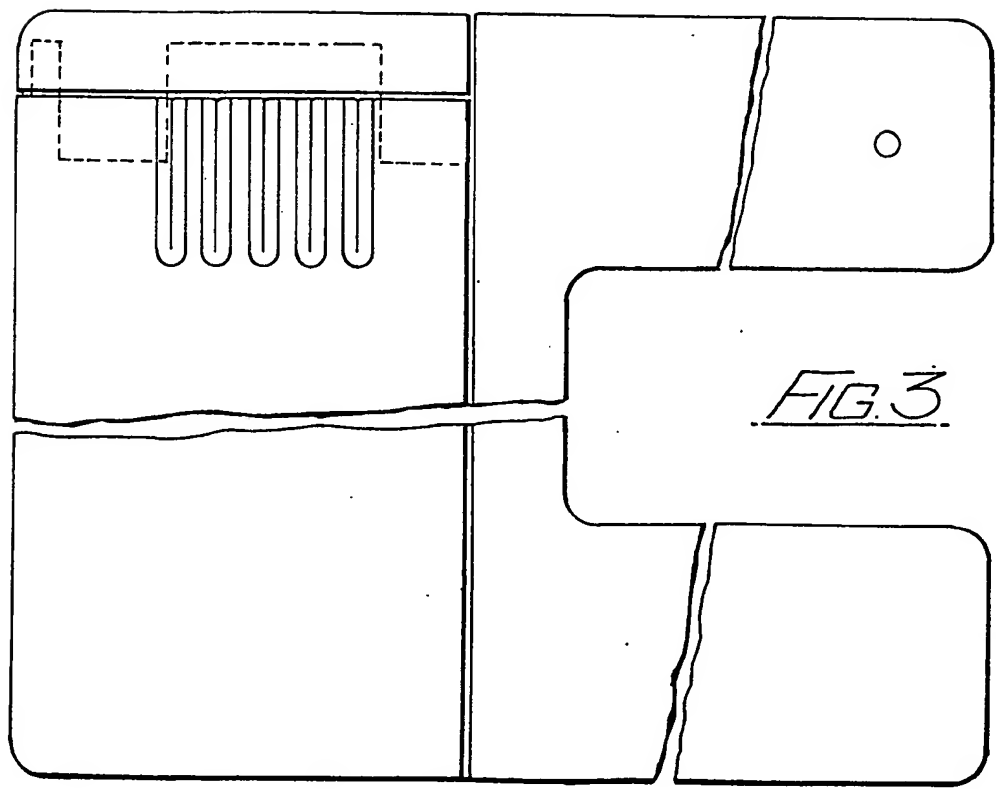
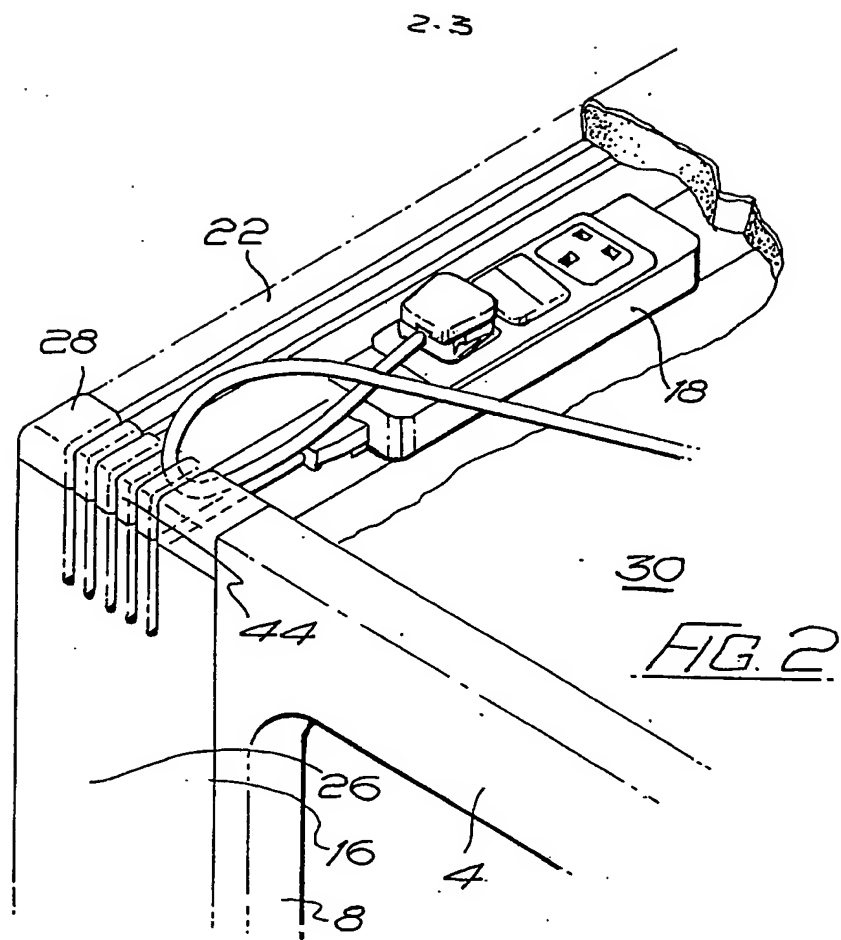


FIG. 4B



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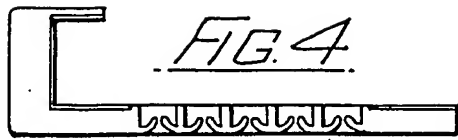


FIG. 4

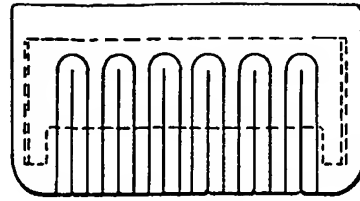


FIG. 4A

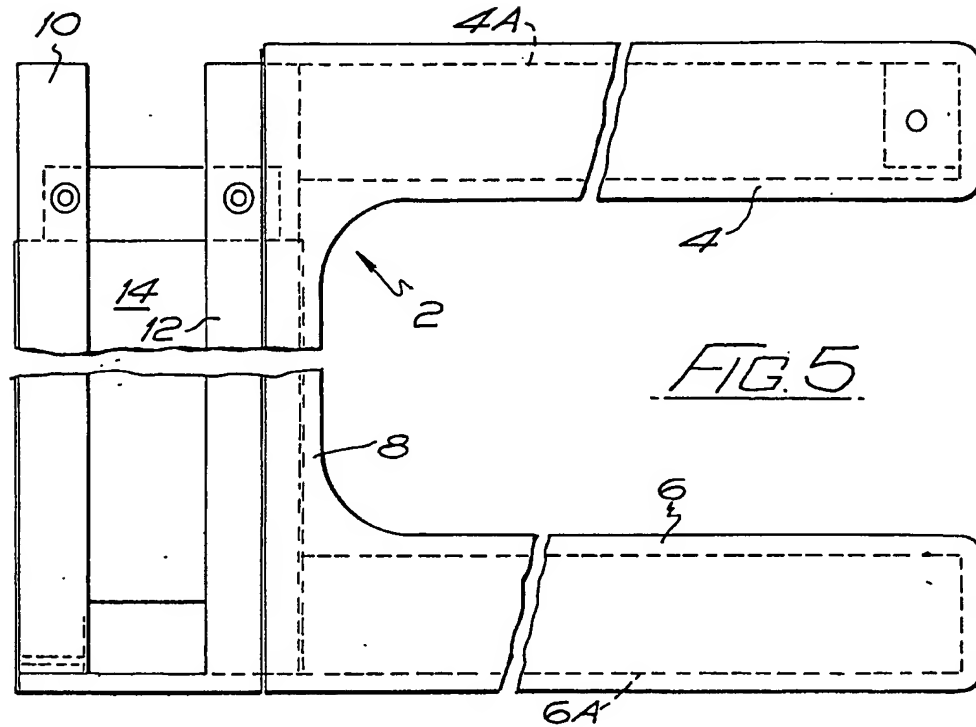


FIG. 5



FIG. 6

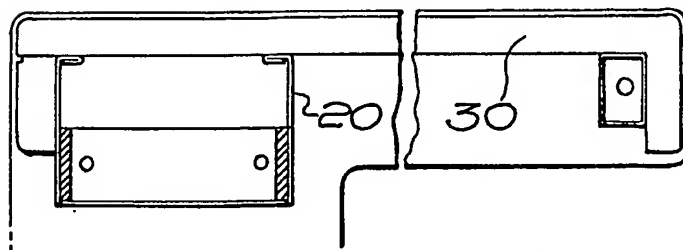


FIG. 7

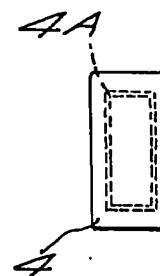


FIG. 5A

SPECIFICATION **Desks or tables**

This invention relates to desks or tables.

According to the present invention, there is
5 provided a desk or table including a top or
working surface and means supporting said top or
working surface, said desk or table including a
housing for receiving service cables, said top or
working surface being movable in its plane
10 relative to said support means to provide access
to said housing.

Preferably, the top or working surface is
slidable in guides in said means between a first
position in which the top or working surface
15 overlies said housing and a second position in
which access can be gained to said housing.

The housing will preferably be formed in said
means and will take the form of a recess in said
means. The recess may include a divider to
20 facilitate separation of service cables of differing
kinds.

Retaining means will preferably be provided to
secure the top or working surface in said first
position, release of said retaining means enabling
25 the top or working surface to move to said second
position.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the
invention, said means will preferably be formed of
a self-skinning polyurethane foam around a metal
30 or other core.

The desk or table may include a removable
cover plate forming a part of said means, said
cover plate concealing a recess in said means,
said recess communicating with said housing and
35 providing access for said service cables.

In order that the invention may be more readily
understood, an embodiment thereof will now be
described, by way of example, reference being
made to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

40 Figure 1 is a perspective view—partly
exploded—of a desk or table embodying the
invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view similar to Figure
1 but showing the desk or table with a
45 modification;

Figure 3 is a side view on Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a plan view of part of Figure 3;

Figures 4A and 4B are respectively plan view
and front view of another part of Figure 3;

50 Figure 5 is a side view similar to Figure 3 with
the end panel of Figure 4 removed;

Figure 5A is an end view on part of Figure 5;

Figure 6 is a plan view on Figure 5; and

55 Figure 7 is a side view, partly in section, of the
desk or table of Figure 3 with one end support
removed.

Referring to the drawings, and firstly to Figure
1, a pair of cantilever supports—one is indicated
by reference numeral 2—are connected together
60 in spaced-apart relationship to constitute a main
frame for a desk or table according to the
invention, each of the cantilever supports
consisting essentially of a cored self-skinning
polyurethane foam. Thus, as will be seen, each

65 cantilever support consists of upper and lower
arms 4 and 6, and a leg 8 which is preferably
vertical. The leg 8 of the cantilever includes two
spaced members 10 and 12 between which is a
cavity 14 to accommodate service cables, such as
70 an electric power line and a telephone line, or a
plurality of such. A single electric cable 16 is
shown within the cavity 14 and supplying power
to a power unit indicated by reference numeral
18. The power unit 18 is located in member 20
75 connecting the two cantilever supports together,
and in order to separate the electrical power unit
and electric power line from a telephone line (not
shown), the channel will preferably house a
divider 22 so as to separate the member 20 into
80 two channels.

To conceal the cable(s) in the cavity 14, the
members 10 and 12, and the cavity
therebetween, an end panel 26—again formed of
a cored self-skinning polyurethane foam—is
85 provided which, as will be seen, is shaped such
that conceals also the side 10A of the member
10. Thus the panel 26 comprises a front portion
26A, a side portion 26B, and a rear return portion
26C which locates behind the member 10 of the
90 leg 8. The panel 26 will be suitably secured in
position (as shown in Figure 3) and as shown in
dotted line in Figure 1.

A cap 28 is fitted to the leg 8 to conceal the
upper ends of the members 10 and 12, the cap 28
95 being shown (by dotted lines) in position in Figure
1.

Located between the cantilever supports is a
top or working surface 30 which is movable in its
plane between the supports, and in the directions
100 of arrow 32, from a first position in which the top
or working surface overlies the member 20 to a
second position to give access to said member.
Preferably, the top or working surface will be
slidable on runner-type guides carried by said
105 supports.

To enable the service cable(s) to be brought to
the top or working surface 30 of the desk or table
a member 34 is secured to the connecting
member 20. The member 34 consists of a panel
110 of cored self-skinning polyurethane foam, the
panel being devoid of its core in the vicinity of
areas 36 of reduced cross-section compared to
the remainder of the panel. By slitting one or more
of these areas, one or more cables (such as that
115 indicated by reference numeral 38) may pass
from the channels in the member 20 to provide
power to electrically operated machines or
appliances (not shown) at top or working surface
level. The panel 34 is more fully described in our
120 co-pending Patent Application No. of
even date herewith.

To ensure close co-operation between the
panel 34 and the top or working surface 30, the
top or surface 30 is provided with a cut-out 40
125 into which the panel 34 will locate when the top
or working surface 30 is in its first position.

The top or working surface is retained in its
first position by releasable catch means which are
preferably spring-loaded and which are preferably

located beneath the top or working surface. The catch means, upon actuation are released from means extending between the supports to allow movement of the top or working surface 30 away from the member 20, the catch means automatically re-engaging said means upon movement of the top or working surface 30 towards the member 20.

As will be seen, the front 26A of the panel 26 is provided with a portion 42 of the same form as members 34, such portion 42 enabling service cables to pass between abutting desks or tables so that such cables are hidden from view.

Referring now to Figure 2, there is shown an alternative means of providing power above the top or working surface 30 from the power unit 18, in which the cap 28 is provided with a plurality of areas 44 as in the member 34. Thus, by slitting one or more of these areas 44, the cable 38A from the power unit 18 may pass to top or working surface level. The panel 34 and the cut-out in the top or working surface are thus dispensed with.

With this change, the construction of the desks or tables of Figures 1 and 2 is identical.

The desk or table in accordance with Figure 1 is shown in Figure 3 where the relationship between the various components is clearly seen.

The specific form of the panel 26 is shown in plan view in Figure 4, and the specific form of the cap 28 of Figure 2 is clearly shown in Figures 4A and 4B.

Constructional details of the desk or table are shown in Figures 5 to 7. Figure 5 shows the cantilever support 2, and shows the cores 4A and 6A of the arms 4 and 6 in dotted lines as well as their connections to the members 10 and 12 of the leg 8. The interconnection of the members 10 and 12 so as to form the cavity 14 is also shown.

The form of the cores is illustrated in Figure 5A. Figure 6 shows a plan view of the constructional details of Figure 5.

Referring now to Figure 7, the member 20 connecting the cantilever supports together is shown in position in relation to the top or working surface 30.

The cantilever supports may each support a bank of drawers or a cupboard (not shown) if desired, and a modesty board (not shown) will preferably be provided to extend between the cantilever supports at the rear of the desk.

It will be appreciated that reference throughout the specification to a desk or table is intended to include reference to wall mounted or off-floor mounted structures to act as desks, tables, in which case the lower arm and a major part (if not all) of the leg lying below the upper arm may be dispensed with. Thus, the structure will become essentially a box structure having sides and a

60 sliding top or working surface, whilst retaining the other features as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

It will also be appreciated that the supporting members for the top or working surface may be of other shapes than those shown, and that the materials of the desk or table members may be other than the materials described.

Claims

1. A desk or table including a top or working surface and means supporting said top or working surface, said desk or table including a housing for receiving service cables, said top or working surface being movable in its plane relative to said support means to provide access to said housing.

2. A desk or table according to Claim 1, wherein said top or working surface is slidable in guides in said support means between a first position in which the top or working surface overlies said housing and a second position in which access can be gained to said housing.

3. A desk or table according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said housing is formed in said support means and takes the form of a recess in said means.

4. A desk or table according to Claim 3, wherein said recess includes a divider.

5. A desk or table according to any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein retaining means are provided to secure the top or working surface in said first position, release of said retaining means enabling the top or working surface to move from said first position to said second position.

6. A desk or table according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein said support means is formed of a self-skinning polyurethane foam around a metal or other core.

7. A desk or table according to any of Claims 2 to 6, wherein said top or working surface includes a cut-out which, when the top or working surface is in said second position accommodates a cable holding device.

8. A desk or table according to any of Claims 3 to 7, wherein said support means includes a removable cover plate forming a part of said support means, said cover plate concealing a passageway in said support means, said passageway communicating with said recess and providing means and accommodation for service cables.

9. A desk or table according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein said support means comprises a pair of cantilever supports connected together in spaced-apart relationship.

10. A desk or table substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in Figure 1 and Figures 3 to 7 or Figure 1 and Figures 3 to 7 as modified by Figure 2.